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500.40511X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: C. OKAMOTO, et al

Serial No.: 09/931,251

Filed: August 7, 2001

For: DATABASE INTEGRATION MANAGEMENT METHOD AND
APPARATUS AND PROCESSING PROGRAM, MEDIUM THEREFOR

Group: 2171

Examiner: M. Filipczyk

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SEP 08 2004

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT Technology Center 2100

MS Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 7, 2004

Sir:

The following is in response to the August 6, 2004 Office Action in which the Examiner alleges that restriction under 35 USC §121 is required and requested Applicants to elect one of the alleged inventions.

In response to the restriction requirement Applicants hereby elect with traverse invention Group I, claims 1-10 and 21 for further prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, an Office Action examining claims 1-10 and 21 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the traversal, Applicants provide the following. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement at least to the extent that it appears that the Examiner has alleged that invention I, claims 1-10 and 21, invention III, claims 13

and 14 and invention V, claims 18 and 19 are directed to patentably distinct inventions when they are not. Each of these claims are essentially directed to the same invention of varying scope as evidenced by the body of such claims which closely correspond to each other.

For example, claim 1 recites a step of associating a material-object identification code identifying each individual material object with material-object information representing information about the material object identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the material-object information in a material-object information database in each of the business categories. A similar element is recited in each of claims 13, 14, 18 and 19. For example, claim 13 recites a material-object information storing module for associating a material-object identification code identifying each individual material-object with material-object information representing information about material-object identified by the material-object identification code and storing the material-object identification code and the material-object information in a material-object information in a material-object information database in each of the business categories the same as claim 1. This element can also be found in claim 18.

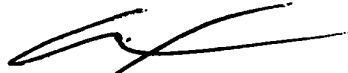
Each of the remaining elements of each claims 1, 13 and 18 included additional elements which are also similar to each other.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the restriction requirement with respect to invention I, III and V is inappropriate and should be withdrawn and that examination should proceed based on claims 1-10, 13, 14, 18, 19 and 21.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.40511X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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